

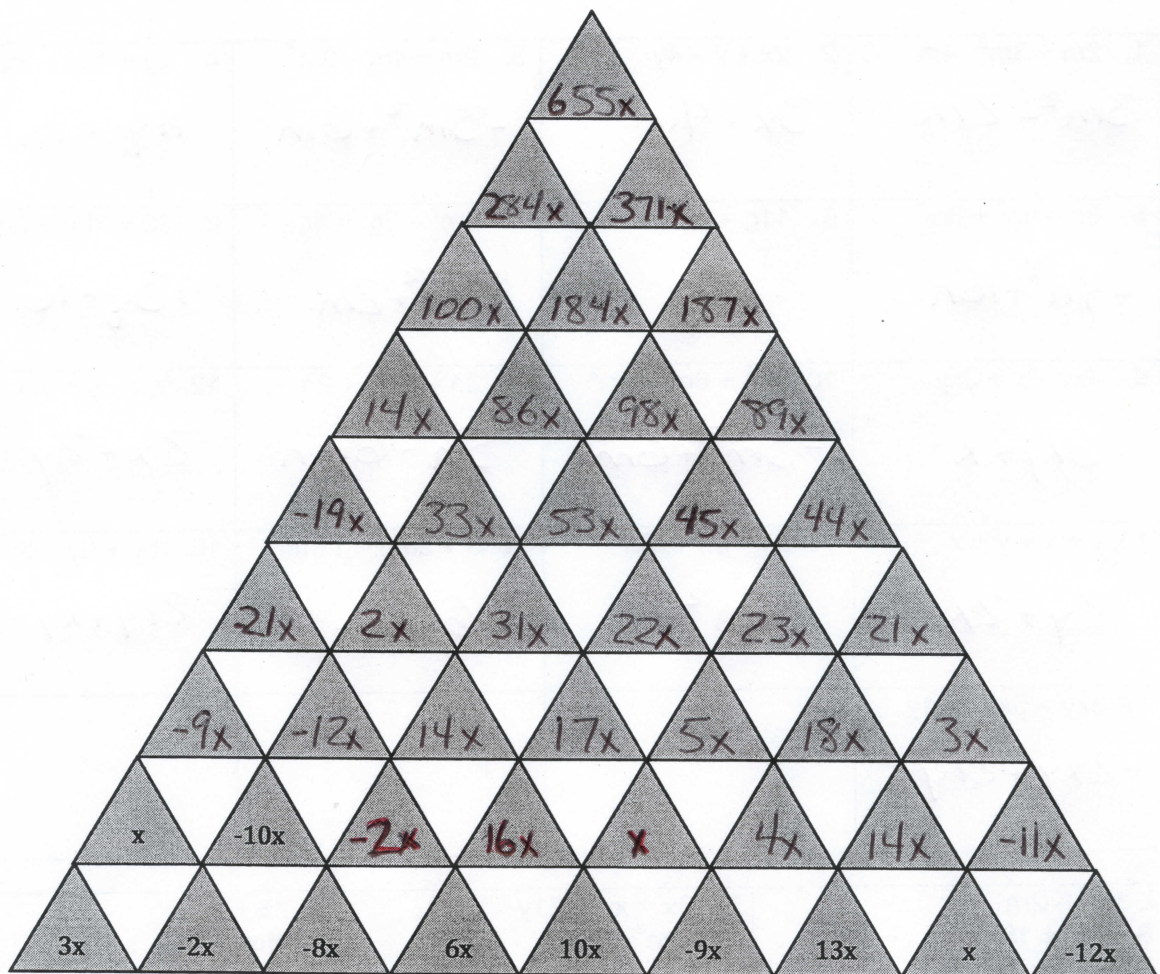
Name: ANSWER KEY

Date: _____

Race to the top:

Directions:

Combine the two like terms next to each other. Write the simplified expression in the yellow triangle directly above the two terms you combined (the first two are done for you). Continue until all the yellow triangles are filled in:



Name Answer Key Date _____

Practice Combining Like Terms Puzzle

Simplify each expression by combining like terms. Find the answer at the bottom of the page. Then write the letter on the appropriate line below to spell out a secret message. (Some letters may be used more than once!)

Did you hear the one about the acupuncture?

$\frac{I}{1} \quad \frac{T}{2} \quad \frac{W}{3} \quad \frac{A}{4} \quad \frac{S}{5} \quad \frac{A}{6} \quad \frac{J}{7} \quad \frac{A}{8} \quad \frac{B}{9}$
 $\frac{W}{10} \quad \frac{E}{11} \quad \frac{L}{12} \quad \frac{L}{13} \quad \frac{D}{14} \quad \frac{O}{15} \quad \frac{N}{16} \quad \frac{E}{17} !$

1. $2m + 3m^2 - 4m$ $3m^2 - 2m$	2. $2x + x - 4y$ $3x - 4y$	3. $2m + 4m - 3m^2$ $-3m^2 + 6m$	4. $2y + 14x - 7x + 9y$ $11y + 7x$
5. $8n - 4n^2 + 8n$ $-4n^2 + 16n$	6. $11g - 9g + 8g$ $10g$	7. $3m^2 - 2m + 4m$ $3m^2 + 2m$	8. $20 + 10q + 3q - 4$ $13q + 16$
9. $4xy + x + 2xy$ $6xy + x$	10. $6m^2 + 6m - 9m^2$ $-3m^2 + 6m$	11. $3n - 6mn + 2n$ $5n - 6mn$	12. $\frac{3}{2}x - y + \frac{1}{2}x + 3y$ $2x + 2y$
13. $y + x + y + x$ $2y + 2x$	14. $8n + 4n^2 - 8n$ $4n^2$	15. $5 + 5mn - 11mn$ $-6mn + 5$	16. $15y + 6y - 3x + xy$ $21y + xy - 3x$
17. $3xy - 5xy + 21y$ $-2xy + 21y$			

I. $3m^2 - 2m$ S. $-4n^2 + 16n$ E. $-2xy + 21y$ O. $-6mn + 5$ T. $3x - 4y$	N. $-3x + xy + 21y$ W. $-3m^2 + 6m$ J. $3m^2 + 2m$ B. $x + 6xy$ A. $10g$	A. $7x + 11y$ E. $-6mn + 5n$ A. $13q + 16$ L. $2x + 2y$ D. $4n^2$
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